(c) Yes. The Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi was summoned by Foreign Secretary on Sept. 10,2004, and the Government of India's surprise and dismay conveyed to him.

(d) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh issued a press release on Sept. 11,2004 stating that the remarks of Bangladesh Foreign Minister were aimed at creating awareness among the young journalists of India and Bangladesh about the issues that govern Bangladesh-India relations and that it should be seen as such. The press release also said that the Foreign Minister expected that the young journalist would understand the issues in their right perspective and look at them dispassionately and objectively.

(e) The Government would continue to engage the Government of Bangladesh constructively to address our security concerns.

Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Bus Service

128. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether if is a fact that the foreign Ministers of Pakistan and India discussed the issue of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the bus service between these two destinations is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh, during his meeting with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on September 5-6, 2004 in New Delhi, discussed all bilateral issues, including the proposed bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad. They agreed to a technical meeting to discuss all isssues related to the commencement of the proposed service. This meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on December 7-8,2004.